'Private Courier's hand in airport blast';

(b) whether Government are aware of the involvement of private couriers behind the explosion in the Calcutta International Airport on the 12th April, 1989; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to investigate the matter thoroughly and to take steps to check effectively the shady operations of unscrupulous private couriers which were reported to be responsible for most of the air disasters which occurred in different parts of the country recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. However, the explosion occurred on 11th April, 1989.

(c) West Bengal Police have registered a case in this connection and have arrested two employees of the courier.

Observation of ceasefire by IPKF in Sri Lanka

@789. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lanka Government has asked the IPKF to observe ceasefire against the LTTE in the north-east during the Tamil new year, which falls in the middle of April;

(b) what is the total number of IPKF soldiers killed during March-April 1989 separately; and

(c) by when the IPKF forces are likely to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) A ceasefire was announced by the Sri Lankan Government which was rejected by the LTTE.

(b) March—36 killed, April 1—15, 23 killed.

(c) The withdrawal of the IPKF has to be seen in the context of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and the ground situation. No specific time frame can be given.

Non-availability of medicines in Railway Hospital Lallaguda, Secundrabad, Andhra Pradesh

784. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some medicines are not available in Railway Hospital, Lallaguda, Secundrabad, Andhra Pradesh; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken by his Ministry to provide more facilities to the above hospital; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that hospital authorities are purchasing medicines from local chemists, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) All essential medicines required are available at Railway Hospital, Lallaguda, though these may not be under specific brand names.

(b) The work of increasing the bed strength of this hospital has been sanctioned and included in the Works Programme of 1989-90.

(c) Some times special drugs, drugs with short shelf-life or drugs which run short due to sudden spurt in the incidence of a particular disease etc. have to be procured locally.

@Previously Unstarred Question 217 transferred from the 25th April, 1989.